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INFO RUEHDS/AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA 0762  
RUEHAE/AMEMBASSY ASMARA 0019  
RUEHEG/AMEMBASSY CAIRO 0754  
RUEHKH/AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM 0016  
RUEHNR/AMEMBASSY NAIROBI 0149  
RUEHJM/AMCONSUL JERUSALEM 7885  
RUEHBS/USEU BRUSSELS BE  
RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA 0562

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GENEVA FOR RMA  
USEU FOR FRANCIS  
JERUSALEM AND CAIRO FOR REFCOORDS

E.O. 12958: DECL: 09/11/2012

TAGS: PREF PHUM EUN IS SU EG

SUBJECT: AFRICAN MIGRANTS AND ASYLUM SEEKERS IN ISRAEL

REF: A. STATE 125576  
1B. STATE 103854  
1C. STATE 115776  
1D. GENEVA 1914  
1E. TEL AVIV 2536  
1F. CAIRO 2320 AND PREVIOUS  
1G. USEU BRUSSELS 2628

Classified By: POL/C Marc Sievers reasons 1.4(b/d)

11. (C) Embassy refugee reporting officer (RRO) delivered demarche requested in Reftel A to Simona Halperin, MFA Acting Director of International Organizations and Human Rights. RRO stressed the humanitarian and political importance of formalizing Egypt and Israel's commitments in a UNHCR-mediated agreement. Halperin reiterated that while the GOI continues to have some misgivings about the UNHCR-Egypt relationship, Israel welcomes the participation of UNHCR in this process. She added that the involvement Israel would most like to see on this issue is increased USG engagement with the GOE.

12. (C) Halperin said that a formal cabinet resolution on granting status to several hundred of the Sudanese that illegally entered Israel via Egypt is being drafted, but specifics and language are still being determined. Halperin assured RRO that Israel remains committed to its humanitarian obligations, but that the border must be closed "politically." She reported that a GOI study found that 717 illegal migrants had entered Israel in July, and 920 had entered in June, and was adamant that Israel must not become a magnet by "allowing waves of unlimited entry."

13. (C) Halperin asked for further details on the technical support and potential U.S. resettlement offers relayed in Reftel A.

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